



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,038	04/30/2001	Brian T. Murren	GE1-008US	5210
21718	7590	12/03/2004	EXAMINER	
LEE & HAYES PLLC SUITE 500 421 W RIVERSIDE SPOKANE, WA 99201			PAULA, CESAR B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2178	

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/847,038	MURREN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CESAR B PAULA	2178	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
     If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
     \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on 4/30/2001.

**This action is made Non-Final.**

2. Claims 1-37 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 10, 20, 26, 31, 34, and 36 are independent claims.

### *Drawings*

3. The drawings filed on 4/30/2001 have been approved by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101*

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101, because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 recites a method which reads on a human user carrying out the steps manually with pen and paper, and/or mentally. For example, a user filling out a paper form, which has several input fields. Additionally, there are no apparatus and/or computer involved in these methods.

***Double Patenting***

6. Claim 31 of this application conflict with claims 1, and 19 of Application No. 09/845,751. 37 CFR 1.78(b) provides that when two or more applications filed by the same applicant contain conflicting claims, elimination of such claims from all but one application may be required in the absence of good and sufficient reason for their retention during pendency in more than one application. Applicant is required to either cancel the conflicting claims from all but one application or maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP § 822.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1- 9, and 20-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tondervold et al, hereinafter Tondervold (Pat.# 5,410,646, 4/25/1995).

Regarding independent claim 1, Tondervold discloses a user selects an electronic form to be filled out by interacting with a system—*receiving an indication of a desired form to be used for data input* -- (col. 3, lines 21-31).

Art Unit: 2178

Furthermore, Tondervold discloses that the system uses protection levels to modify the display depending on the user's identity and protection level for a field. For example, fields 84 and 88 of fig.3 are displayed to a manager, but not to an initiator and district manager—*automatically identifying one or more data input fields to be included on the form--* (col. 5, lines 1-15).

Regarding claim 2, which depends on claim 1, Tondervold, discloses a processor verifying the validity of data as it is input into fields by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition—*automatically identifying for each of the one or more input fields, one or more restrictions* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 3, which depends on claim 2, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database—*requesting and receiving the one or more restrictions from a business logic, which subsequently processes requests submitted via the form* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 4, which depends on claim 2, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic*. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager—*identifying in the one or more interactions one or more*

Art Unit: 2178

*attributes that are not obtained elsewhere.* The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 5, which depends on claim 1, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database be identified—*requesting and receiving the one or more input fields from a business logic, which subsequently processes requests submitted via the form* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 6, which depends on claim 1, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic.* As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager—*identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere.* The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 7, which depends on claim 1, Tondervold, discloses a processor verifying the validity of data as it is input into fields by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 8, which depends on claim 1, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database be identified—*communicating with a business logic to identify one or more input fields* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 9, which depends on claim 8, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database be identified—a *plurality of interactions to process requests, comprising an identification of one of the plurality of interactions* or data input into the fields (col.4, lines 60-68, col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding independent claim 20, Tondervold teaches a system for using a database of form definitions, containing protection levels for each field in the form, for producing several occurrences of the same form. The system uses the protection levels for form fields for accepting user input—*determining one or more attributes that are used by the business logic but not*

Art Unit: 2178

*obtained by the business logic elsewhere, and ...* (col.3, lines 62-67, col.4, lines 29-60, and col.5, lines 1-15).

Furthermore, Tondervold discloses the verification of the validity of data entered into the form fields—including *validation code associated with the defined one or more fields*--as it is input based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition (col.4, lines 61-678, col.5, lines 16-28, and col.7, lines 30-47).

Regarding claim 21, which depends on claim 20, Tondervold, discloses the verification of the validity of data as it is input by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition (col.5, lines 16-28, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 22, which depends on claim 20, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed by another user, such as an area manager. The additional form fields contain data types, ranges, and other instructions—*validation code*-- which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 23, which depends on claim 20, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed by another user, such as an area manager. The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory,



Art Unit: 2178

contain data types, ranges, and other instructions—*identification of additional restrictions and receiving from the business logic, the identification of the additional restrictions--* which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Claims 24-25 are directed towards a computer program product on a computer-readable medium for storing computer-executable instructions for performing the steps found in claim 22, and therefore is similarly rejected.

Regarding independent claim 26, Tondervold, discloses a memory—*tag library--*, having a database for storing form definitions, which contain data types, ranges, and other instructions for verifying and validating data input by a user into form fields (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-39, 61-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Furthermore, Tondervold teaches the automatic additional inclusion of form fields to be filled out by filled out exclusively by a user, such as an area manager. The additional fields contain data types, ranges, and other instructions for verifying and validating data input by a user into those fields (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-39, 61-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.7, lines 30-47)—*validation code from the tag library to verify that a subsequent input to the data field satisfies the one or more automatically identified restrictions.*

Regarding claim 27, which depends on claim 26, Tondervold teaches the automatic additional inclusion of form fields to be filled out by filled out exclusively by a user, such as an

Art Unit: 2178

area manager. The additional fields contain data types, ranges, and other instructions for verifying and validating data input by a user into those fields—*automatically identify restrictions, and include in the form definition, the validation code to verify that the subsequent input to the data field* (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-39, 61-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.7, lines 30-47)

Regarding claim 28, which depends on claim 26, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic*. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager— *identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere*. The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 29, which depends on claim 26, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic*. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager— *identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere*. The additional forms fields--, *additional data input fields to be included in the form based at least in part on the identification of the one or more*

Art Unit: 2178

*attributes not obtained by one or more interactions elsewhere--* which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 30, which depends on claim 34, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Regarding independent claim 31, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional form fields to be filled out by the user. As a result of completing the filling out of the form fields—*identifying one or data fields*, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager—*identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere*. The additional forms fields which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms—*generating form definition that includes the one or more data fields, and that also includes code to verify that, for each of the data, a subsequent input to the data field satisfies the one or more restrictions --* (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.7, lines 30-47).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 32, which depends on claim 31, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user into the input fields (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Regarding claim 33, which depends on claim 31, Tondervold, discloses that the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager. The additional forms fields which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.7, lines 30-47).

Regarding independent claim 34, Tondervold teaches a processor—*form processing module*-- for accepting input from a user and for validating the various data type input by the user using form definitions found in a memory—*business logic*--, having a database, containing protection levels for each field in the form, for producing several occurrences of the same form (col.4, lines 1-7, 61-68, col.5, lines 16-28, and col.7, lines 30-47)

Regarding claim 35, which depends on claim 34, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Regarding independent claim 36, Tondervold teaches a processor—*form processing module*-- for accepting input—*interaction associated with a request*, such as a purchase order--

Art Unit: 2178

from a user. Instructions in the memory—*business logic*--, having a database, containing, data types, protection levels for each field in the form, etc, compares the input made to the forms with the user's identity, such as an area manager—*attributes that are not obtained by the one or more interaction elsewhere*, but at the district manager's computer--, and modifies the form to display additional field to be filled out by the user. The fields are marked to let other users know that the added form fields are to be filled out only by the area manager—*indicating that the one or more identified attributes are to be obtained via a data input field on a form, and further indicating that an input for the data input field is needed when submitting the form* (col.4, lines 1-7, 61-68, col.5, lines 16-28, and col.7, lines 30-47)

Regarding claim 37, which depends on claim 36, Tondervold teaches a processor—*form processing module*-- for accepting input, such as a purchase order-- from a user (col.4, lines 1-7, 61-68, col.5, lines 16-28)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2178

10. Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tondervold, in view of Yankovich et al, hereinafter Yankovich (Pat. # 6,704,906, 3/9/2004, filed on 3/27/1999).

Regarding independent claim 10, Tondervold discloses that the system uses protection levels to modify the display depending on the user's identity and protection level for a field. For example, fields 84 and 88 of fig.3 are displayed to a manager, but not to an initiator and district manager—*automatically identifying one or more display restrictions associated with an input field--* (col. 5, lines 1-15). Tondervold fails to explicitly disclose: *generate a text markup language form..* However, Yankovich teaches the creation of a form in HTML (col.2, line 57-col.3, line 21). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have created the form in HTML, because Yankovich teaches a self-directed routable form that can guide the user to appropriate routing based on data input on the form over a network, such as the Web or the Internet (col. 2, lines 1-57). This provides the benefit of routing the form to users using the power and efficiency of the Internet.

Regarding claim 11, which depends on claim 10, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database be identified—*communicating with a business logic to identify one or more restrictions* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 12, which depends on claim 11, Tondervold, discloses a processor comparing the input made into the fields with data type of the fields found in a database. In other words, the processor requests the data type of the fields from the database be identified as located in memory—*requesting, and receiving from the business logic an identification of the one or more restrictions* (col.4, lines 1-7, lines 60-68, col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 13, which depends on claim 11, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic*. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager— *identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere*. The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 14, which depends on claim 10, Tondervold discloses that the system uses protection levels to modify the display depending on the user's identity and protection level for a field. For example, fields 84 and 88 of fig.3 are displayed to a manager, but not to an initiator and district manager—*automatically identifying one or more display restrictions associated with an input field--* (col. 5, lines 1 -15). Tondervold fails to explicitly disclose:

Art Unit: 2178

*generate a text markup language form..* However, Yankovich teaches the creation of a form in HTML (col.2, line 57-col.3, line 21). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have created the form in HTML, because Yankovich teaches a self-directed routable form that can guide the user to appropriate routing based on data input on the form over a network, such as the Web or the Internet (col. 2, lines 1-57). This provides the benefit of routing the form to users using the power and efficiency of the Internet.

Regarding claim 15, which depends on claim 14, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user into the input fields (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Regarding claim 16, which depends on claim 14, Tondervold, discloses presenting additional forms fields to be filled out by the user—*identifying one or more interactions associated with the business logic*. As a result of completing the filling out of the form, the user is automatically presented with additional form fields to be completed exclusively by another user, such as an area manager— *identifying in the one or more interactions one or more attributes that are not obtained elsewhere*. The additional forms fields, which are retrieved from memory, contain data types, ranges, and other instructions which are used by a processor to validate the data input by the user into the forms (col.4, lines 1-7, 44-68, col.5, lines 1-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).



Art Unit: 2178

Regarding claim 17, which depends on claim 14, Tondervold, discloses a processor verifying the validity of data as it is input into fields by a user based on interdependencies between fields in the form definition—*automatically identifying that a data input to the automatically identified data input field is required when submitting the form* (col.5, lines 16-28, col.7, lines 30-47, and col.3, lines 66-68).

Regarding claim 18, which depends on claim 10, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user into the input fields (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Regarding claim 19, which depends on claim 10, Tondervold, discloses the comparison of the validity of data as it is input by a user into the input fields (col.4, lines 61-68, and col.5, lines 16-28).

Art Unit: 2178

***Conclusion***

I. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. D'Souza et al. (Pat. # 6,415,284), and Park et al. (UsPub. # 2001/0039594).

II. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (571) 272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday (every other Friday off) from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong, can be reached on (571) 272-4124. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

- (703) 703-872-9306, (for all Formal communications intended for entry)

  
CESAR B PAULA  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2178

11/29/04